

partly within the shade of a sparsely leafed *Combretum* shrub. The broad white band on the upperwing was bordered boldly with black, making the wing pattern in flight very distinctive.

The area was searched again on 11 April at 05.45 hrs, just before sunrise. No nightjar calls were heard and the bird was not relocated.

This is the first record of Golden Nightjar in Cameroon and we advise birders visiting the area north of Mora, well known for Quail-plover *Ortyxelos meiffrenii* and Cricket Warbler, to also search for this species, especially in uncultivated areas.

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Sharpe's Starling *Cinnyricinclus sharpii* new to Zambia, and its status in eastern Africa

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La découverte inattendue de quelques Etourneaux de Sharpe *Cinnyricinclus sharpii* en novembre 2002 dans les Monts Mafingas en Zambie (la première donnée pour le pays) pose la question du statut de cette espèce peu commune, en particulier en ce qui concerne la population très isolée au Mont Rungwe, à 100 km au nord-est, en Tanzanie du sud.

Sharpe's Starling *Cinnyricinclus sharpii* is associated with Afromontane forest, ranging from Ethiopia to Tanzania. In the latter it occurs north of 07°S in the west (Kungwe Mahare) and of 05°S in the east (the Usambaras), with the exception of an isolated population on Mount Rungwe (09°07'S 33°42'E), in the south-west. Its discovery even further south, in north-eastern Zambia, was unexpected.

PSMB and DF, together with J & C A Coppinger and B R Jackson, were in the Mafinga Mountains, at the headwaters of the Luangwa River very close to its source (09°57'S 33°21'E), on 21 November 2002. In riparian evergreen forest at 1,970 m they found a party of four Sharpe's Starlings, and had very good, clear views for c30 minutes of one bird in particular that was perched in the canopy. The upperparts were uniformly blue-black, with a violet sheen in good light. Chin, throat and chest were white, with the abdomen buff or pale rufous. The iris was strikingly pale. In other respects these birds resembled Amethyst Starlings *C. leucogaster* in shape and behaviour

(including wing-flicking). The voice was very distinctive, with high-pitched tinkling notes and squeaks (well represented on Chappuis's CDs)². A few days later the observers were able to consult Zimmerman *et al*³ and all agreed that the birds were definitely Sharpe's Starlings.

Although known from as close as Mount Rungwe in Tanzania (some 100 km to the north-east) the species' status there is unclear, with very few records. Since Fülleborn collected it there in October 1894¹⁰, the species has been reported only sometime in the period late October to mid-November 1962 (collected by G Heinrich, specimen in Yale Peabody Museum), late October 1971 (quite common, in song, with four specimens collected by RJD, R Stjernstedt and T O Osborne) and 19–27 August 1980 (seen by F P Jensen, in song). Previous visits to the Zambian side of the Mafingas (between July and December) have never located Sharpe's Starling^{1,4,7}. Intensive work on the Nyika Plateau in neighbouring Malaŵi and extensive surveys of all of the montane forests of northern Malaŵi and adjacent Zambia never

revealed the species³. Though usually considered resident, in Rwanda (Nyungwe) it was found to be apparently an intra-African migrant, with no observations in October–December (reappearing 3 January)⁶, specimens from there being taken between 30 June and 21 August¹¹. In eastern Zaïre (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) too there appear to be no published records in November–February^{8,9,12}. The species has been recorded in northern Tanzania in all months, with no obvious evidence of movements of any importance (N Baker *in litt*). One of the Rungwe specimens from 1971 was a juvenile with incomplete skull ossification, so possibly the Zambian birds represent post-breeding dispersal in the latter part of the year. On the Nyika Plateau, the migratory Amethyst Starling breeds in October³, and in Zambia as a whole some 60% of more than 100 egg-laying records are for that month³. Possible movements in some populations of Sharpe's Starling would repay investigation.

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Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*: the first record for Seychelles

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L'auteur documente la première mention pour les Seychelles du Busard pâle *Circus macrourus*, un mâle de première année observé sur l'Île Platte du 25 janvier au 30 mars 2002. La mention a été acceptée par le Comité d'Homologation Seychellois (SBRC). Auparavant, le seul busard observé aux Seychelles était le Busard des roseaux *C. aeruginosus* (deux mentions acceptées). Il y a néanmoins une observation d'une femelle adulte du Busard cendré *C. pygargus* ou Busard pâle.

On 25 January 2002, a large raptor appeared on Platte Island, at the northern end of the

runway, where it was noted by Lesley & Eric Roest, who are resident on the island. It remained on